

CARR-1019

Strawbridge Home for Boys
5703, 5705, & 5714 Strawbridge Terrace

1926, 1927, 1936

The Strawbridge Home for Boys was originally the Judge George Washington Manro farm in the late nineteenth century. In the early 1900's the farm was purchased by George and Ella Albaugh of Westminster. In 1922 the Albaugh's gave their 318-acre farm, with the house and outbuildings, to the Methodist Episcopal Church as an orphanage for boys. It was named for Robert Strawbridge, the first Methodist minister in Carroll County. The first structure built was the Hobab Summer Pavilion. It was dedicated on 7 September 1924. At the same time, the old Manro farmhouse was renovated for living quarters for fifteen to twenty boys. The first boys were scheduled to arrive on 1 December 1924. In June 1926 the Reamy gateway was dedicated. On the same day the cornerstone was laid for the new dormitory, called the Carroll Building after David H. Carroll, a major benefactor. The structure was designed by Baltimore architect William M. Emmert. The stone for the building was taken from the North Branch quarry, less than five miles away. The Carroll Building was dedicated in September 1927. At the same time the Carroll Building was being dedicated, a superintendent's cottage was also being erected. "This is of colonial style with granite base." An administration building was erected in 1936. Another cottage for boys was built in 1950. In the late 1950's the Methodist Church decided to consolidate its orphanages in the Baltimore region and sold Strawbridge. The Manro farmhouse has since disappeared, as have all the farm buildings, apparently. Nevertheless, the Strawbridge Home for Boys represents an important adjunct to the social history of Carroll County.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Strawbridge Home for Boys

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 5703, 5705 & 5714 Strawbridge Terrace not for publicationcity, town Eldersburg X vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Carroll

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>X</u> district	<u>X</u> public	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>agriculture</u>
<u>building(s)</u>	<u>private</u>	<u>unoccupied</u>	<u>commercial</u>
<u>structure</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>work in progress</u>	<u>educational</u>
<u>site</u>	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u>entertainment</u>
<u>object</u>	<u>in process</u>	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>government</u>
	<u>being considered</u>	<u>yes: unrestricted</u>	<u>industrial</u>
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>no</u>	<u>military</u>
			<u>other:</u>

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Irvin B. Gordon

street & number 5714 Strawbridge Terrace telephone no.:

city, town Sykesville state and zip code Maryland 21784

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Courthouse Annex liber 428

street & number 55 North Court Street folio 221

city, town Westminster state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Summary: The former Strawbridge Home for Boys complex is located on both sides of Strawbridge Terrace, about one mile north of Eldersburg in southeast Carroll County. The complex consists of a gateway, a stone dormitory, a stone administration building, and a stone and frame superintendent's house. The Reamy gateway is located on the west side of Route 32, just north of Johnsville Road. Only one side of the gateway survives. The gate is built of rubble stone. The Carroll Building was formerly a dormitory. This is a 2½-story, 9-bay by 3-bay building built on an "I" plan. It is built of partially dressed and partially coursed fieldstone with dressed limestone trimmings. The building faces south. The center section has a jerkin-head gable roof with an east-west ridge. The end cross wings each have a gable roof with a north-south ridge. The entire roof is covered with slate. The building is built on a raised basement and the first story has a center entrance. Just north of the Carroll Building is a small stone structure that was probably the administration building. It is a one-story, three-bay by one-bay structure built of partly coursed, partly dressed fieldstone. It has a slate hip roof with a north-south ridge, and faces east. The east elevation has a projecting center bay with a gable roof. Just northeast of the administration building is a house that was most likely the superintendent's cottage. It is a three-bay, 1½-story structure that faces south. The first story has partly dressed and coursed fieldstone and the second story has aluminum siding. The gambrel roof is slate, with an east-west ridge and a large, three-bay wide, shed-roofed dormer. The first story has a center entrance with sidelights. There is a one-bay, one-story, gable-roof porch on two square posts. On the east end is a one-story, screened porch. There is an enclosed one-story porch on the west end.

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The Reamy gateway is located on the west side of Route 32, just north of Johnsville Road. Only one side of the gateway survives. The gate is built of rubble stone, some of which has a high mica content and some of which is rather brown from a high iron content. There is a short pier on the east with a quarter-curved wall on the west side of the pier. This wall connects on the north side of a tall pier that is southwest of the short pier. The tall pier is topped by a large limestone urn. There is no evidence of the remains of the other half of the gateway. The Gambrill highway, a concrete road, formerly passed through the gate, westward, and crossed over a small stone bridge.

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Description (continued)

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At the west end of the highway is the Carroll Building which was formerly a dormitory. This is a 2½-story, 9-bay by 3-bay building built on an "I" plan with a resultant tripartite facade. The center section is recessed about two feet, front and back. It is built of partially dressed and partially coursed fieldstone with dressed limestone trimmings. The building faces south. The center section has a jerkin-head gable roof with an east-west ridge that stops short of meeting the ridge of each cross-gable. The end cross wings each have a gable roof with a north-south ridge. The entire roof is covered with slate. The building is built on a raised basement with a limestone water table.

The center section of the south elevation is five bays and has five concrete steps, flanked by stone walls, up to an open porch that is three bays wide, with low stone walls around it. In the cellar west of the porch is a new aluminum sash in an original opening. The first story has a center entrance with double doors that have six lights over two panels. There was probably a transom over the door, but it is now boarded up. The east and west bays each have an 8/8 sash. The west center bay has a narrow 4/4 sash while the east-center bay has a narrow blind opening. The second story center bay has an 8/8 sash with a wood double keystone and a pedimented wood surround. The end bays each have an 8/8 sash while the two middle bays have a narrow 4/4 sash in each. All of these openings have limestone sills and lintels. There is a wood box cornice with a complex bed mould. The roof has three segmentally-arched-roof dormers with 1/1 sash.

The east and west sections of the south elevation are identical. The cellar has two pair of casement windows, with six lights in each half of each casement. The water table acts as a lintel for these and all the cellar windows. The first story has a tripartite sash with a 4/4 on each end and an 8/8 in the center. The second story has two 8/8 sash. Both stories have limestone sills and lintels. The cornice has returns. The gable end has a semi-circular arched opening with a pair of casements in it. They have eight lights in each half of the casement. The sill is limestone, but the voussoirs are of rubble stone.

The west elevation is three bays. The cellar has one pair of casements in each end bay, and two pair in the center. Each half of each casement has six lights. The north bay of the first story has an 8/8 sash and the center bay has a tripartite sash with an 8/8 flanked by a 4/4 on each side. The south bay window has been converted to a door. The second story is identical to the first. The windows have limestone sills and lintels, and the new doors have new steel fire escapes. The roof has one central dormer with a segmentally-arched roof and a pair of eight-light casement windows.

The east elevation has an exterior center chimney with a single limestone weathering on the north side of the stack. The cellar has two pair of six-light casements

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Description (continued)

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on each side of the chimney. The first story has a tripartite window with an 8/8 flanked by a 4/4 on each side, on both sides of the chimney. The north window has been converted to a door in the middle, with a steel fire escape. The second story has two 8/8 sash on each side of the chimney. These windows, too, have limestone sills and lintels.

The north elevation center section has a raised stone porch in the center bay. It is enclosed with a one-story frame structure with staggered-butt shingles and a hip roof with asphalt shingles. The door in the porch has nine lights over two panels. The porch is open underneath, with a door, flanked by a six-light casement on each side, in the north wall of the building. West of the porch, in the cellar, is a pair of six-light casements and a pair of casements with two lights over a wood louvered vent on each half. The first story has an 8/8 sash in the east bay, a pair of 4/4 sash with a wood mullion in the east-central bay, and two 8/8 sash west of the porch. The second story has two narrow 8/8 sash in the center bay, two 8/8 sash in the end bays, and no openings in the other two bays. The roof has three dormers that match those on the south elevation. The center dormer has a pair of eight-light casements and the end dormers have 1/1 sash.

The north elevation of the east wing has two pair of six-light casements in the cellar. The first story has a tripartite sash identical to the others. The second story has a window now converted to a door on the east bay, with a steel fire escape, and an 8/8 sash in the west bay. The gable end has a semi-circular arched opening with a pair of eight-light casements. The west wing is virtually identical, but has only one casement in the cellar and the gable end window is boarded up. There is a brick chimney with a limestone cap just west of center, and north of the ridge. The first and second story windows on the north elevation also have limestone sills and lintels. This building has a central stair hall with rooms off of it. It has been converted to apartments.

Just north of the Carroll Building is a small stone structure that was probably the administration building. It is a one-story, three-bay by one-bay structure built of partly coursed, partly dressed fieldstone. It has a slate hip roof with a north-south ridge, and faces east. The east elevation has a projecting center bay with a gable roof and east-west ridge. This bay has a door with sidelights that have four lights over a panel. There is a small louvered vent in the gable end. The north and south elevations of the center bay have a 6/6 sash, and the north and south bays of the east elevation also have a 6/6 sash. The north and south bays have a three-light sash in the foundation. There is a wide stone chimney centered on the ridge between the south and center bays. It has four terra cotta flues.

The south elevation has two 6/6 sash, with two three-light sash in the foundation. The north elevation is identical to the south. The west elevation also has a projecting

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center bay with a shed roof that is integral with the slope of the main hip roof. There is a central door with a 6/6 sash to the north and two six-light casements to the south. The north and south bays each have a 6/6 sash. This building is now a private residence.

Just northeast of the administration building is a house that was most likely the superintendent's cottage. It is a three-bay, 1½-story structure that faces south toward the old Gambrill highway. The first story has partly dressed and coursed fieldstone and the second story has aluminum siding. The gambrel roof is slate, with an east-west ridge and a large, three-bay wide, shed-roofed dormer. The first story has a center entrance with sidelights that have five lights over one panel. There is a one-bay, one-story, gable-roof porch on two square posts. On either side is an 8/8 sash. The second story has an 8/8 sash in each end bay, with a 6/6 sash in the center. There is a stone exterior chimney on the east end. Also on the east end is a one-story, flat-roofed, screened porch with a stone foundation and aluminum siding on the bottom half of the first story. The second story has two doors, one on either side of the chimney, and two quarter-round louvered vents at the peak. There is an enclosed one-story porch on the west end. It, too, has a stone foundation and aluminum siding. There is one 1/1 sash on the south elevation and two 1/1 on the west. The west elevation of the house has a 6/6 sash south of the porch in the first story, with a three-light sash below it, in the cellar. North of the porch are two six-light casements in the first story. The second story has two 6/6 sash, and there is a semi-circular louvered vent in the peak.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1926, 1927, 1936 **Builder/Architect** N. Claude Erb/William M. Emmert

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary: The Strawbridge Home for Boys was originally the Judge George Washington Manro farm in the late nineteenth century. In the early 1900's the farm was purchased by George and Ella Albaugh of Westminster. In 1922 the Albaugh's gave their 318-acre farm, with the house and outbuildings, to the Methodist Episcopal Church as an orphanage for boys. It was named for Robert Strawbridge, the first Methodist minister in Carroll County. The first structure built was the Hobab Summer Pavilion. It was dedicated on 7 September 1924. At the same time, the old Manro farmhouse was renovated for living quarters for fifteen to twenty boys. The first boys were scheduled to arrive on 1 December 1924. In June 1926 the Reamy gateway was dedicated. On the same day the cornerstone was laid for the new dormitory, called the Carroll Building after David H. Carroll, a major benefactor. The structure was designed by Baltimore architect William M. Emmert. The stone for the building was taken from the North Branch quarry, less than five miles away. The Carroll Building was dedicated in September 1927. At the same time the Carroll Building was being dedicated, a superintendent's cottage was also being erected. "This is of colonial style with granite base." An administration building was erected in 1936. Another cottage for boys was built in 1950. In the late 1950's the Methodist Church decided to consolidate its orphanages in the Baltimore region and sold Strawbridge. The Manro farmhouse has since disappeared, as have all the farm buildings, apparently. Nevertheless, the Strawbridge Home for Boys represents an important adjunct to the social history of Carroll County.

Geographic Organization: Piedmont

Chronological/Development Period: Industrial/Urban Dominance A.D. 1870-1930;
Modern Period A.D. 1930-Present

Historic Period Themes: Architecture, Social/Education/Cultural

Resource Types: Orphanage

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Significance (continued)

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The Strawbridge Home for Boys was originally the Judge George Washington Manro farm in the late nineteenth century. The farmhouse was apparently located in front of (south of) the existing large stone dormitory, and in front of the farmhouse were reportedly log slave cabins. Copper deposits were found on the farm, and the rights were sold to others, who worked the deposits for several years. Both the Judge and Mrs. Manro died in 1891. In the early 1900's the farm was purchased by George and Ella Albaugh of Westminster. In 1922 the Albaugh's daughter and son-in-law died in an influenza epidemic, leaving three daughters. In response, the Albaugh's gave their 318-acre farm, with the house and outbuildings, to the Methodist Episcopal Church as an orphanage for boys. The orphanage was open to all denominations, according to the dictates of the church. It was named for Robert Strawbridge, the first Methodist minister in Carroll County, and indeed in the United States.

Though located in Carroll County, the home was really a regional enterprise. The first structure built was the Hobab Summer Pavilion, which was constructed by the Hobab Bible Class of Patterson Memorial M. E. Church in Baltimore. It was dedicated on 7 September 1924. At the same time, the old Manro farmhouse was renovated, at a cost of \$20,000 for living quarters for fifteen to twenty boys. There were twenty-five rooms. Hot water heating, baths, toilets, and electric lights were added, and the farmhouse was described thus:

The first floor contains a large reception room, study, dining room and kitchen[.] [L]rge open fireplaces add to the beauty and comfort of each room on the first floor, the second floor contains the rest room, baths and sleeping quarters for the smaller boys[,] the third floor sleeping quarters for the larger boys, sewing room, storage, also several rest or living rooms.

The first boys were scheduled to arrive on 1 December 1924.

In June 1926 the Reamy gateway was dedicated. The money for the gateway, over \$1000, was donated by Reverend and Mrs. Robert L. Reamy of Baltimore. On the same day the cornerstone was laid for the new dormitory, called the Carroll Building after David H. Carroll, a major benefactor. The structure was designed by Baltimore architect William M. Emmert and built by Westminster contractor N. Claude Erb. The stone for the building was taken from the North Branch quarry, less than five miles away. The Carroll Building was dedicated in September 1927, and the final cost was between \$50,000 and \$60,000.

The first floor of the building is arranged with the following rooms. Kitchen, dining room, reading room, living room, office and lockers. The

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Significance (continued)

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basement is used as the laundry and work shop. The second floor has two dormitories, each having fourteen beds. There are baths, showers and each boy has a locker. The third floor has a large storage room, a dispensary fully equipped and nurses's room, two extra bedrooms nicely furnished. There are linen closets on each floor.

At the same time the new Gambrill highway, an eighteen-foot wide concrete road from the Reamy Gate past the old and new dorms and on to the Beasman County road, was also dedicated. The road was given by Mary T. Gambrill in honor of her husband, Melville Gambrill of Wilmington, Delaware. Two bronze tablets were also unveiled on the Reamy gateway, one in honor of Mrs. Gambrill and the other in memory of Rev. Reamy.

At the same time the Carroll Building was being dedicated, a superintendent's cottage was also being erected. "This is of colonial style with granite base," a local newspaper noted. The trustees of Strawbridge consented to using a portion of the orphanage grounds for some cottages where retired ministers could live without having to pay rent. There is no evidence whether or not this was pursued further. A pool was constructed behind the Carroll Building, the gift of Edgar Snavelly of Sparrows Point. It was fed by three springs, and was reportedly always extremely cold.

An administration building was erected in 1936 and dedicated in October of that year. The building was given to the Strawbridge Home by Mrs. Edgar Snavelly as a memorial to her husband, who had been the treasurer of the orphanage. The furnishings for the building were given by noted baritone John Charles Thomas and his mother in honor of Thomas' father, Reverend Milson Thomas. Another cottage for boys was built in 1950.

The boys at Strawbridge attended school in Sykesville, as well as St. Paul's Methodist Church in that town. Each boy had chores, either in the kitchen, boiler room, dining room, laundry, or vegetable garden, and the older boys worked for the farm. The farm had chickens, hogs, dairy and beef cattle, horses, and ducks, and grew crops. This was used for feeding the boys, and the excess was sold. When it started in 1924 the home had fifteen boys and was run by one superintendent, Rev. Thomas S. Long, with two house mothers. It cost Strawbridge about \$200 a year to care for a boy at that time. The population later grew to at least 45-50 boys, and in addition to the superintendent there were house parents, dieticians, farm managers and secretaries. Unfortunately, since the orphanage was for boys only some brothers and sisters were separated.

In the late 1950's the Methodist Church decided to consolidate its orphanages in the Baltimore region and sold Strawbridge to Carrollton Farms, Inc., which in turn sold a

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Significance (continued)

Section 8 Page 4

portion to Carrollton Country Club, Inc. A local farmer sued all the parties involved for damages, and when it was all over the golf club plan had collapsed. Some of the land was developed with homes, and the Carroll building was converted first to a senior citizens home and later to an apartment building. The Manro farmhouse has since disappeared, as have all the farm buildings, apparently. The Carroll Building has undergone some alterations in its conversion to apartments, but still retains a good degree of integrity on the exterior. Large institutional buildings and complexes are rather rare in Carroll County; most commonly they were built as colleges, few of which survive. It is not known if Carroll County had any other orphanages, but regardless, the Strawbridge Home for Boys represents an important adjunct to the social history of Carroll County.

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Carroll County Wide, "Strawbridge Estates is Mine of Hist
Angela Lee

Angela Lee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

H | | | | |

PS-2746



CARR-1019
Strawbridge Home for Boys
5703, 5705, & 5714 Strawbridge Terrace

Finksburg quad



Strawbridge Home for Boys
Rte. 32 North of Johnsville
Reamy Gateway

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: May 1993

Neg. Loc: Maryland Historical Trust

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Strawbridge Home for Boys
5714 Strawbridge Terrace
Carroll Building

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: April 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

South east elevations

2/5



Strawbridge Home for Boys
5714 Strawbridge Terrace
Carroll Building

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: April 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

East: north elevations

3/5



Strawbridge Home For Boys
5703 Strawbridge Terrace
Administration Building

Carroll County, Maryland

Photo: Kenneth M. Short

Date: May 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust
east elevation

4/5



Strawbridge Home for Boys
5705 Strawbridge Terrace
Carroll County, Maryland
Photo: Kenneth M. Sholt

Date: July 1993

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Superintendent's Cottage - south elevation
5/-